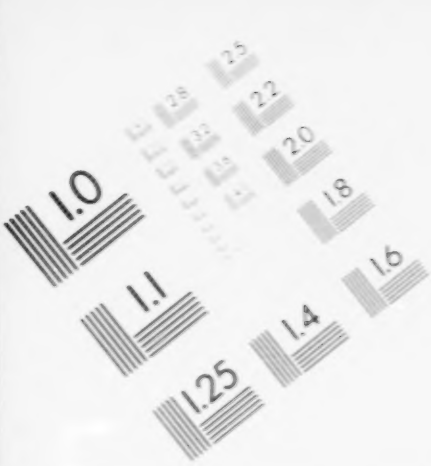

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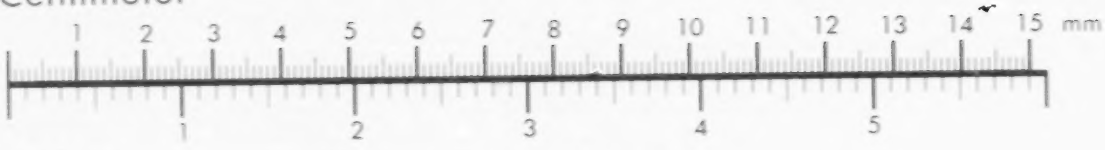

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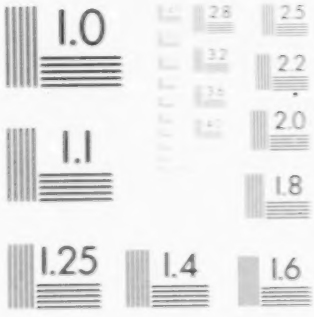

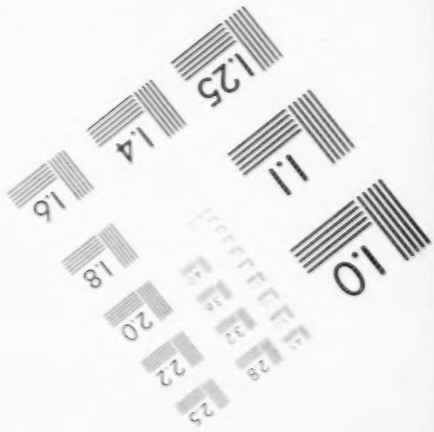

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ABSTRACT

Data from the 50 United States are listed for 1997 from Kids Count in an effort to track state-by-state the status of children in the United States and to secure better futures for all children. Data include percent low birth weight babies; infant mortality rate; child death rate; rate of teen deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide; teen birth rate; percent of teen high school dropouts; percent of teens not attending school and not working; percent of children living with parents who do not have full-time year-round employment; percent of children in poverty; percent of families with children headed by a single parent; and percent of children who live in a household without a phone or computer or Internet access. (SAH)

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2000

KIDS COUNT DATA SHEET

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kids count

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

The 1990s were a time of unparalleled prosperity in America. Over the past decade, virtually every indicator of economic growth and well-being moved upward. Although significant numbers of families are clearly benefiting from this economic boom, it's important to recognize that too many other families and kids are not.

This phenomenon can be seen most starkly in our major metropolitan areas, where comfortable middle- and upper-income communities brush the borders of neighborhoods that remain home to large numbers of very poor families. In impoverished urban and rural communities, families are still being overwhelmed by a number of factors that continue to put them at high risk of poor life outcomes.

Over the past decade, we've learned a lot about fragile families in America. Although we understand more about who's generally at risk and we now recognize that the majority of these families live in communities of concentrated poverty, we still don't know enough about the specific and concrete obstacles that these families confront daily — or the best ways to surmount them. The Casey Foundation believes that to accelerate our search for answers to these challenges, we need a more practical way of describing, measuring, and addressing the issues that poor families face.

Central to this view is our growing recognition of the value and significance of *connections*, and the consequences when families and kids are isolated or "disconnected" from the opportunities, networks, supports, and services that will enable them to thrive. Of particular importance are connections to economic opportunities that help families secure jobs and build assets, social networks that offer help and promote positive relationships, and high quality and accessible supports and services — such as schools, day care, and police protection — that families trust.

The importance of helping families make these connections is the theme of our *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, and, indeed, of much of the current work of the entire Foundation.

A Different Framework for Thinking About Families

It has long been recognized that many of our poorest families are struggling to survive in communities that often exacerbate rather than mitigate the disadvantages of poverty — communities where a lack of public resources, economic investment, and political power sometimes serve to separate and isolate families from mainstream society.

However, while such difficulties have been acknowledged, historically, the framework used to understand the issues these families face has had significant limitations. For example, these families have been described as "below poverty," "minority," "living in inner-city neighborhoods," and "disproportionately single parents." Although not wrong, such characterizations imply that class, race, place, and family structure are the primary measures of disadvantage and that unless these issues can be addressed, no real progress can be made.

At the Casey Foundation, we now believe that an alternative framework can give us a more practical understanding of what it means to be a poor family trying to raise kids in a tough neighborhood and why the experiences of poor families tend to differ from those of families that are more affluent.

The Importance of Family Connections

For many families living in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, life is often a series of paradoxes. At a time when media experts, economists, and social observers stress that the future belongs to those on the Internet and those who can compete in a global economy, many inner-city families don't have cars to get to work, phones to remain linked with family and neighbors, or computers that would allow them to navigate the information superhighway.

Connecting Families to Economic Opportunities

All families need an opportunity to build a solid financial foundation that enables them to meet their everyday needs and plan for the future. Indeed, it is well known that when parents work and save, their personal development is affected, as well as the development of their kids and the quality of neighborhood life.

Chronic unemployment has long been recognized as an all-too-common reality for families in tough neighborhoods. And despite

the current booming economy, this trend continues.

Yet many residents in neighborhoods with the worst child outcomes aren't simply poor and underemployed. They are removed and disconnected from the core opportunities, resources, and institutions that would enable them to combat their poverty more successfully.

Connecting Families to Strong Social Networks

While economic opportunity is unmistakably essential to family success, the ability of a family to succeed also depends heavily on the positive supportive relationships parents form.

Historically, these formal and informal support systems have been one of the strengths of poor communities. But in some places, these networks of core relationships are fraying as a result of social and demographic trends that intensify isolation. Among the most important trends are those that affect family formation, such as the absence of fathers.

When key social networks become frayed, families can find it difficult to feel connected to a larger community that cares about what happens to them and to their kids. The absence of these critical links can compound the stress and burden of parenthood, particularly for parents of young children.

Connecting Families to Supports and Services

In addition to real economic opportunities and relevant social networks, strong families also need high-quality supports and services.

But in too many of the poorest communities, families do not believe that appropriate supports and services will be there when they need help. And even when help is available, many poor families lack confidence or trust in the local institutions that provide critical supports and services such as health care, day care, education, and law enforcement.

In many poor urban and rural communities, families are disadvantaged because the supports and services they need simply aren't there. For example, the availability of primary care health clinics is sometimes so inadequate that parents are regularly forced to use hospital emergency rooms as their provider of first resort.

Even when help is available, many poor families are skeptical that they'll get what they need, for they have no confidence or trust in the local community institutions that provide critical supports and services.

The distrust and isolation that characterizes the relationships that many poor families have with different mainstream systems and institutions reflect, to some degree, their feelings toward government in general. Many families in poor communities have difficulty seeing government agencies as proactive, caring, and responsive — a view that has many ramifications.

The Implications of a Connections Framework

Successful, happy, healthy kids need families that are strong — families that not only love them, but also provide, nurture, support, and teach. But being a strong family is terribly tough in high-poverty neighborhoods that offer few of the opportunities, networks, and supports that all families need and most families take for granted.

Moreover, we believe that thinking about family connections — and how they can be built, link by link — can help provide a road map for change that is more practical and can inspire more people to act. Across the country, we can identify potent examples of strategies that are working to build bridges, foster relationships, and advance truly accessible services in our poorest neighborhoods.

Our experiences — and the experiences of others — have led us to conclude that to truly transform family-weakening neighborhoods, we need strategies that can help *all* families make deeper connections on *all* of these fronts.

Mounting such an effort will require an unprecedented degree of political will and collaboration among and across a broad cross-section of stakeholders. The stakeholders include local government; employers; banks; large and small businesses; faith-based groups; community-based organizations; cultural clubs; hospitals; universities; schools; law enforcement officials; and, most important, leadership from families and grassroots community organizations.

This is the type and level of active participation that the Casey Foundation is hoping to promote through our recently inaugurated Neighborhood Transformation/ Family Development (NT/FD) Initiative, a strategy for helping

(Continued on opposite-facing panel)

communities connect and strengthen families in isolated neighborhoods. Through NT/FD, the Foundation is investing considerable resources in ideas that can advance more active public support of family-strengthening strategies.

In the most concrete expression of our NT/FD strategy, we want to help mobilize, in selected cities around the country, a critical mass of interest, investment, and action to demonstrate that it is possible to transform tough neighborhoods into family-strengthening environments. This is the conviction that undergirds our *Making Connections* Initiative.

Making Connections

In 1999, the Casey Foundation launched *Making Connections*, a new initiative involving 22 cities that we believe possess the political will to frame and fulfill a family-strengthening agenda.

While we envision *Making Connections* to be at least a decade-long commitment, it begins with a three-year preparatory phase, during which we hope to see each city begin to stimulate and support a local movement on behalf of families. Our hope is that this movement will, over time, develop the power and momentum to accomplish the following:

- Build on existing efforts and spur neighborhood-scale, comprehensive family-strengthening strategies.
- Use these neighborhood-scale initiatives to rethink, revamp, and redirect policies, practices, and resources on a city-wide scale, so that all families, regardless of where they live, have access to the same high-quality connecting opportunities.

Through our own direct grantmaking and by co-investing with others, we want to build on, expand, and advance existing successful family connection efforts in each site. We also hope to help stimulate new ideas by offering each of the *Making Connections* cities significant technical assistance and access to some of the most successful family-linking strategies being implemented in similar communities across the nation.

Conclusion

The Casey Foundation believes strongly that the framework described here is a powerful tool for understanding and addressing the disadvantages that confront children in America.

Over the next decade, in addition to our *Making Connections* initiative, we hope to put this approach to work in a variety of ways. For example, because of a lack of strong, systematically collected indicators of family connection, we want to support new data collection efforts, such as the Urban Institute's National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, the National Survey of America's Families, and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Our hope is that such investments will also inform our continuing efforts to maximize the impact and relevance of our national *KIDS COUNT Data Book* indicators as well as the state-level KIDS COUNT projects we support.

We also plan to continue supporting promising, replicable, neighborhood-based strategies for strengthening families — strategies that exemplify new and creative ways to connect families to the opportunities, networks, and supports they need.

We are convinced that thinking about families in terms of their connections can help these varied stakeholders recognize that, while each has a unique and important contribution to make, it is only their collective action that will make a real and lasting difference for our most vulnerable families.

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President
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	National Composite Rank	Percent low-birthweight babies		Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	
		rate	rank	rate	rank
UNITED STATES	—	7.5	—	7.2	—
Alabama	47	9.2	47	9.5	46
Alaska	33	5.9	5	7.5	30
Arizona	41	6.9	16	7.1	24
Arkansas	48	8.4	39	8.7	43
California	26	6.2	8	5.9	8
Colorado	20	8.8	41	7.0	22
Connecticut	12	7.3	21	7.2	26
Delaware	34	8.7	40	7.8	35
District of Columbia	not ranked	13.4	not ranked	13.2	not ranked
Florida	36	8.0	37	7.1	24
Georgia	42	8.8	41	8.6	41
Hawaii	13	7.2	20	6.6	18
Idaho	24	6.3	10	6.8	20
Illinois	30	7.9	35	8.4	40
Indiana	16	7.7	27	8.2	38
Iowa	5	6.4	13	6.2	12
Kansas	15	6.9	16	7.4	28
Kentucky	40	7.8	32	7.3	27
Louisiana	50	10.2	50	9.5	46
Maine	10	5.9	5	5.1	2

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INDICATORS USED TO DETERMINE COMPOSITE RANKIN

Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)		Rate of teen deaths by accident, homicide, and suicide (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)		Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-17)		Percent of teens who are high school dropout (ages 16-19)	
rate	rank	rate	rank	rate	rank	rate	rank
25	—	58	—	32	—	10	—
36	46	74	42	43	44	11	34
42	50	85	48	25	19	8	15
29	35	70	39	44	46	15	49
38	49	90	49	43	44	12	40
21	6	52	14	36	36	10	29
23	13	53	16	30	30	11	34
20	4	41	8	22	12	8	15
25	23	66	30	37	37	10	29
46	not ranked	264	not ranked	66	not ranked	10	not ranked
27	26	55	18	35	34	12	40
29	35	65	28	44	46	12	40
19	3	27	2	25	19	5	2
37	48	68	35	23	15	10	29
23	13	58	21	34	33	9	25
27	26	62	26	32	32	6	3
24	19	52	14	20	7	6	3
27	26	69	37	28	25	6	3
30	39	73	40	35	34	11	34
34	45	84	47	42	42	11	34
21	6	37	6	15	4	7	9

HEET

Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19)		Percent of children living with parents who do not have full-time, year-round employment		Percent of children in poverty (data reflect poverty in the previous year)		Percent of families with children headed by a single parent	
rate	rank	rate	rank	rate	rank	rate	rank
9	—	27	—	21	—	27	—
10	35	29	36	25	40	30	42
11	40	27	25	15	14	26	18
11	40	30	40	24	39	28	34
12	46	27	25	26	44	28	34
9	26	31	42	25	40	26	18
8	18	21	8	15	14	23	7
6	5	25	17	14	7	27	27
7	14	26	19	15	14	32	46
16	not ranked	49	not ranked	36	not ranked	62	not ranked
9	26	29	36	22	36	31	44
9	26	28	30	23	37	29	38
10	35	32	45	18	27	24	10
9	26	28	30	16	20	20	2
8	18	26	19	18	27	27	27
6	5	20	7	14	7	22	4
5	4	19	2	13	6	24	10
6	5	19	2	14	7	27	27
12	46	31	42	26	44	25	13
13	48	35	49	30	48	35	50
8	18	29	36	17	21	25	13

ACCESS TO PHONES, COMPUTERS, AND THE INTERNET

Percent of children who live in a household without a phone, 1998	Percent of children who live in a household without a computer, 1997-1998	Percent of children who live in a household without Internet access, 1997-1998	
8	49	73	US
10	62	81	AL
4	31	59	AK
11	54	73	AZ
14	62	84	AR
7	52	74	CA
3	34	63	CO
5	41	65	CT
4	51	75	DE
11	65	84	DC
10	52	71	FL
13	57	76	GA
6	53	73	HI
8	39	71	ID
10	48	75	IL
6	48	75	IN
6	43	74	IA
4	37	69	KS
9	48	75	KY
13	67	85	LA
4	37	66	ME

Maryland	22	8.8	41	8.8	44
Massachusetts	7	7.0	18	5.2	3
Michigan	29	7.7	27	8.2	38
Minnesota	1	5.9	5	5.9	8
Mississippi	49	10.1	49	10.6	50
Missouri	22	7.7	27	7.6	32
Montana	28	6.3	10	4.9	21
Nebraska	11	7.0	18	7.4	28
Nevada	35	7.6	25	6.5	16
New Hampshire	2	5.8	4	4.3	1
New Jersey	9	7.9	35	6.3	14
New Mexico	46	7.8	32	6.1	10
New York	31	7.8	32	6.7	19
North Carolina	39	8.8	41	9.2	45
North Dakota	3	6.2	8	6.2	12
Ohio	23	7.7	27	7.8	35
Oklahoma	38	7.3	21	7.5	30
Oregon	27	5.5	1	5.8	5
Pennsylvania	18	7.6	25	7.6	32
Rhode Island	25	7.4	24	7.0	22
South Carolina	43	9.2	47	9.6	48
South Dakota	17	5.5	1	7.7	34
Tennessee	45	8.8	41	8.6	41
Texas	37	7.3	21	6.4	15
Utah	6	6.6	15	5.8	5
Vermont	8	6.3	10	6.1	10
Virginia	19	7.7	27	7.8	35
Washington	14	5.6	3	5.6	4
West Virginia	44	8.3	38	9.6	48
Wisconsin	4	6.4	13	6.5	16
Wyoming	21	9.0	46	5.8	5

23	13	58	21	28	25	7	9
15	1	33	4	19	6	7	9
26	25	59	23	25	19	8	15
21	6	46	11	18	5	6	3
36	46	90	49	50	50	10	29
27	26	73	40	30	30	11	34
32	43	69	37	20	7	8	15
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28	33	62	26	38	39	12	40
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23	13	26	1	12	1	7	9
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31	42	78	44	23	15	8	15

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6	5	21	8	19	30	24	10
13	48	26	19	21	34	30	42
11	40	27	25	26	44	26	18
7	14	19	2	12	3	15	1
8	18	24	13	15	14	26	18
6	5	24	13	17	21	29	38
9	26	28	30	17	21	26	18
11	40	38	50	30	48	26	18
4	1	19	2	12	3	23	7
7	14	22	11	14	7	25	13

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5	35	59	MD
5	38	63	MA
7	48	74	MI
4	40	69	MN
14	70	87	MS
7	45	72	MO
8	44	78	MT
5	41	74	NE
7	53	72	NV
6	29	59	NH
6	38	66	NJ
18	58	77	NM
5	52	75	NY
9	56	79	NC
4	43	74	ND
6	46	71	OH
15	57	80	OK
5	44	70	OR
4	48	72	PA
6	44	65	RI
10	56	75	SC
9	43	74	SD
11	55	77	TN
10	59	79	TX
3	30	66	UT
5	34	66	VT
5	42	68	VA
4	36	64	WA
11	60	80	WV
4	42	73	WI
7	43	74	WY

Note: All data are for 1997 unless otherwise indicated.
Data prepared by Kelvin M. Pollard, Population Referen[illegible]

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About KIDS COUNT

KIDS COUNT is a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation to track state by state efforts to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children. The initiative publishes the annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. This *Data Sheet* is derived from the *2000 KIDS COUNT Data Book*. The Foundation also funds a nationwide network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects that provide a more detailed, community-level picture of the condition of America's children.

To obtain one free copy of the *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, the *KIDS COUNT Pocket Guide*, or the *KIDS COUNT Data Sheet*, call

410.223.2890

The *KIDS COUNT Data Sheet* was produced for the Annie E. Casey Foundation by

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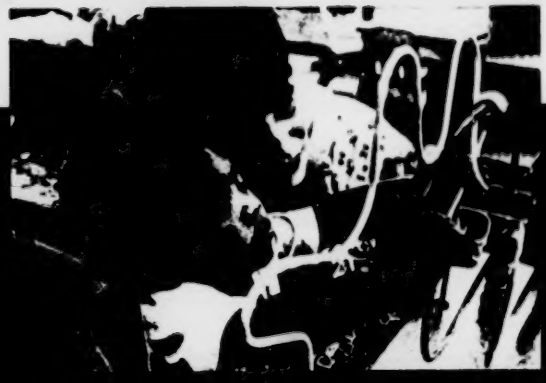

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. It was established in 1948 by Jim Casey, one of the founders of United Parcel Service, and his siblings, who named the Foundation in honor of their mother. The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation makes grants that help states, cities, and communities fashion more innovative, cost-effective responses to these needs.

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